CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST FOR ESB 416

Citations Affected: IC 6-1.1.

Synopsis: Property taxes. Provides for the following filing deadlines for property tax deductions: (1) June 11 for real property; and (2) March 31 for mobile homes or manufactured homes that are not assessed as real property. Changes the filing deadline for the homestead credit with respect to mobile homes or manufactured homes that are not assessed as real property from March 2 to March 31. Makes technical changes. (This conference committee report is the same as the House-passed version of ESB 416 (as reprinted March 16, 2007), except that this conference committee report: (1) removes the change that would have increased the maximum assessed value for eligibility for the property tax deduction for certain disabled veterans from \$113,000 to \$300,000; and (2) makes technical changes.)

Effective: Upon passage; January 1, 2007 (retroactive); July 1, 2007.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MADAM PRESIDENT:

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Your Conference Committee appointed to confer with a like committee from the House upon Engrossed House Amendments to Engrossed Senate Bill No. 416 respectfully reports that said two committees have conferred and agreed as follows to wit:

that the Senate recede from its dissent from all House amendments and that the Senate now concur in all House amendments to the bill and that the bill be further amended as follows:

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert the following: SECTION 1. IC 6-1.1-12-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.154-2006, SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 2. (a) Except as provided in section 17.8 of this chapter, a person who desires to claim the deduction provided by section 1 of this chapter must file a statement in duplicate, on forms prescribed by the department of local government finance, with the auditor of the county in which the real property, mobile home not assessed as real property, or manufactured home not assessed as real property is located. With respect to real property, the statement must be filed during the twelve (12) months before June 11 of each year for which the person wishes to obtain the deduction. With respect to a mobile home that is not assessed as real property or a manufactured home that is not assessed as real property, the statement must be filed during the twelve (12) months before March 2 31 of each year for which the individual wishes to obtain the deduction. The statement may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must be postmarked on or before the last day for filing. In addition to the statement required by this subsection, a contract buyer who desires to claim the deduction must submit a copy of the recorded contract or recorded memorandum of the contract, which must contain a legal description sufficient to meet the requirements of IC 6-1.1-5, with the first statement that the

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buyer files under this section with respect to a particular parcel of real property. Upon receipt of the statement and the recorded contract or recorded memorandum of the contract, the county auditor shall assign a separate description and identification number to the parcel of real property being sold under the contract.

- (b) The statement referred to in subsection (a) must be verified under penalties for perjury, and the statement must contain the following information:
 - (1) The balance of the person's mortgage or contract indebtedness on the assessment date of the year for which the deduction is claimed.
 - (2) The assessed value of the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home.
 - (3) The full name and complete residence address of the person and of the mortgagee or contract seller.
 - (4) The name and residence of any assignee or bona fide owner or holder of the mortgage or contract, if known, and if not known, the person shall state that fact.
 - (5) The record number and page where the mortgage, contract, or memorandum of the contract is recorded.
 - (6) A brief description of the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home which is encumbered by the mortgage or sold under the contract.
 - (7) If the person is not the sole legal or equitable owner of the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home, the exact share of the person's interest in it.
 - (8) The name of any other county in which the person has applied for a deduction under this section and the amount of deduction claimed in that application.
- (c) The authority for signing a deduction application filed under this section may not be delegated by the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home owner or contract buyer to any person except upon an executed power of attorney. The power of attorney may be contained in the recorded mortgage, contract, or memorandum of the contract, or in a separate instrument.

SECTION 2. IC 6-1.1-12-10.1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.154-2006, SECTION 13, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 10.1. (a) Except as provided in section 17.8 of this chapter, an individual who desires to claim the deduction provided by section 9 of this chapter must file a sworn statement, on forms prescribed by the department of local government finance, with the auditor of the county in which the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home is located. With respect to real property, the statement must be filed during the twelve (12) months before June 11 of each year for which the individual wishes to obtain the deduction. With respect to a mobile home that is not assessed as real property or a manufactured home that is not assessed as real property, the statement must be filed between January 15 and during the twelve (12) months before March 31, inclusive 31 of each year for which the individual wishes to obtain the deduction. The statement may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must

be postmarked on or before the last day for filing.

- (b) The statement referred to in subsection (a) shall be in affidavit form or require verification under penalties of perjury. The statement must be filed in duplicate if the applicant owns, or is buying under a contract, real property, a mobile home, or a manufactured home subject to assessment in more than one (1) county or in more than one (1) taxing district in the same county. The statement shall contain:
 - (1) the source and exact amount of gross income received by the individual and the individual's spouse during the preceding calendar year;
 - (2) the description and assessed value of the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home;
 - (3) the individual's full name and complete residence address;
 - (4) the record number and page where the contract or memorandum of the contract is recorded if the individual is buying the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home on contract; and
 - (5) any additional information which the department of local government finance may require.
- (c) In order to substantiate the deduction statement, the applicant shall submit for inspection by the county auditor a copy of the applicant's and a copy of the applicant's spouse's income tax returns for the preceding calendar year. If either was not required to file an income tax return, the applicant shall subscribe to that fact in the deduction statement.

SECTION 3. IC 6-1.1-12-12, AS AMENDED BY P.L.141-2006, SECTION 9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.145-2006, SECTION 16, AND AS AMENDED BY P.L.154-2006, SECTION 14, IS CORRECTED AND AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 12. (a) Except as provided in section 17.8 of this chapter, a person who desires to claim the deduction provided in section 11 of this chapter must file an application, on forms prescribed by the department of local government finance, with the auditor of the county in which the real property, mobile home not assessed as real property, or manufactured home not assessed as real property is located. With respect to real property, the application must be filed during the twelve (12) months before May June 11 of each year for which the individual wishes to obtain the deduction. With respect to a mobile home that is not assessed as real property or a manufactured home that is not assessed as real property, the application must be filed during the twelve (12) months before March 2 31 of each year for which the individual wishes to obtain the deduction. The application may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must be postmarked on or before the last day for filing.

- (b) Proof of blindness may be supported by:
 - (1) the records of a county office of family and children, the division of family *and children*, resources, or the division of disability *aging*, and rehabilitative services; or
 - (2) the written statement of a physician who is licensed by this state and skilled in the diseases of the eye or of a licensed optometrist.

(c) The application required by this section must contain the record number and page where the contract or memorandum of the contract is recorded if the individual is buying the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home on a contract that provides that *he the individual* is to pay property taxes on the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home.

SECTION 4. IC 6-1.1-12-15, AS AMENDED BY P.L.154-2006, SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 15. (a) Except as provided in section 17.8 of this chapter, an individual who desires to claim the deduction provided by section 13 or section 14 of this chapter must file a statement with the auditor of the county in which the individual resides. With respect to real property, the statement must be filed during the twelve (12) months before June 11 of each year for which the individual wishes to obtain the deduction. With respect to a mobile home that is not assessed as real property or a manufactured home that is not assessed as real property, the statement must be filed during the twelve (12) months before March 231 of each year for which the individual wishes to obtain the deduction. The statement may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must be postmarked on or before the last day for filing. The statement shall contain a sworn declaration that the individual is entitled to the deduction.

- (b) In addition to the statement, the individual shall submit to the county auditor for the auditor's inspection:
 - (1) a pension certificate, an award of compensation, or a disability compensation check issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs if the individual claims the deduction provided by section 13 of this chapter;
 - (2) a pension certificate or an award of compensation issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs if the individual claims the deduction provided by section 14 of this chapter; or
 - (3) the appropriate certificate of eligibility issued to the individual by the Indiana department of veterans' affairs if the individual claims the deduction provided by section 13 or 14 of this chapter.
- (c) If the individual claiming the deduction is under guardianship, the guardian shall file the statement required by this section.
- (d) If the individual claiming a deduction under section 13 or 14 of this chapter is buying real property, a mobile home not assessed as real property, or a manufactured home not assessed as real property under a contract that provides that the individual is to pay property taxes for the real estate, mobile home, or manufactured home, the statement required by this section must contain the record number and page where the contract or memorandum of the contract is recorded.

SECTION 5. IC 6-1.1-12-17, AS AMENDED BY P.L.154-2006, SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 17. Except as provided in section 17.8 of this chapter, a surviving spouse who desires to claim the deduction provided by section 16 of this chapter must file a statement with the auditor of the county in which the surviving spouse resides. With respect to real property, the statement must be filed during the twelve (12) months before June 11 of each year for which the surviving spouse

wishes to obtain the deduction. With respect to a mobile home that is not assessed as real property or a manufactured home that is not assessed as real property, the statement must be filed during the twelve (12) months before March 2 31 of each year for which the individual wishes to obtain the deduction. The statement may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must be postmarked on or before the last day for filing. The statement shall contain:

- (1) a sworn statement that the surviving spouse is entitled to the deduction; and
- (2) the record number and page where the contract or memorandum of the contract is recorded, if the individual is buying the real property on a contract that provides that the individual is to pay property taxes on the real property.

In addition to the statement, the surviving spouse shall submit to the county auditor for the auditor's inspection a letter or certificate from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing the service of the deceased spouse in the military or naval forces of the United States before November 12, 1918.

SECTION 6. IC 6-1.1-12-17.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.154-2006, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 17.5. (a) Except as provided in section 17.8 of this chapter, a veteran who desires to claim the deduction provided in section 17.4 of this chapter must file a sworn statement, on forms prescribed by the department of local government finance, with the auditor of the county in which the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home is assessed. With respect to real property, the veteran must file the statement during the twelve (12) months before June 11 of each year for which the veteran wishes to obtain the deduction. With respect to a mobile home that is not assessed as real property or a manufactured home that is not assessed as real property, the statement must be filed during the twelve (12) months before March 231 of each year for which the individual wishes to obtain the deduction. The statement may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must be postmarked on or before the last day for filing.

- (b) The statement required under this section shall be in affidavit form or require verification under penalties of perjury. The statement shall be filed in duplicate if the veteran has, or is buying under a contract, real property in more than one (1) county or in more than one (1) taxing district in the same county. The statement shall contain:
 - (1) a description and the assessed value of the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home;
 - (2) the veteran's full name and complete residence address;
 - (3) the record number and page where the contract or memorandum of the contract is recorded, if the individual is buying the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home on a contract that provides that the individual is to pay property taxes on the real property, mobile home, or manufactured home; and
 - (4) any additional information which the department of local government finance may require.

SECTION 7. IC 6-1.1-12-27.1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007 (RETROACTIVE)]:

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Sec. 27.1. Except as provided in section 36 of this chapter, a person who desires to claim the deduction provided by section 26 of this chapter must file a certified statement in duplicate, on forms prescribed by the department of local government finance, with the auditor of the county in which the real property or mobile home is subject to assessment. With respect to real property, the person must file the statement during the twelve (12) months before May June 11 of each year for which the person desires to obtain the deduction. With respect to a mobile home which is not assessed as real property, the person must file the statement between January 15 and during the twelve (12) months before March 31, inclusive, 31 of each year for which the person desires to obtain the deduction. The statement may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must be postmarked on or before the last day for filing. On verification of the statement by the assessor of the township in which the real property or mobile home is subject to assessment, the county auditor shall allow the deduction.

SECTION 8. IC 6-1.1-12-30, AS AMENDED BY P.L.154-2006, SECTION 21, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 30. Except as provided in section 36 of this chapter, a person who desires to claim the deduction provided by section 29 of this chapter must file a certified statement in duplicate, on forms prescribed by the department of local government finance, with the auditor of the county in which the real property or mobile home is subject to assessment. With respect to real property, the person must file the statement between March 1 and during the twelve (12) months before June 11 inclusive, of each year for which the person desires to obtain the deduction. With respect to a mobile home which is not assessed as real property, the person must file the statement between January 15 and during the twelve (12) months before March 31, inclusive, 31 of each year for which the person desires to obtain the deduction. On verification of the statement by the assessor of the township in which the real property or mobile home is subject to assessment, the county auditor shall allow the deduction.

SECTION 9. IC 6-1.1-12-35.5, AS AMENDED BY SEA 526-2007, SECTION 114, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 35.5. (a) Except as provided in section 36 of this chapter, a person who desires to claim the deduction provided by section 31, 33, 34, or 34.5 of this chapter must file a certified statement in duplicate, on forms prescribed by the department of local government finance, and proof of certification under subsection (b) or (f) with the auditor of the county in which the property for which the deduction is claimed is subject to assessment. Except as provided in subsection (e), with respect to property that is not assessed under IC 6-1.1-7, the person must file the statement between March 1 and during the twelve (12) months before June 11 inclusive, of the assessment year. The person must file the statement in each year for which the person desires to obtain the deduction. With respect to a property which is assessed under IC 6-1.1-7, the person must file the statement between January 15 and during the twelve (12) months before March 31, inclusive, 31 of each year for which the person

desires to obtain the deduction. The statement may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must be postmarked on or before the last day for filing. On verification of the statement by the assessor of the township in which the property for which the deduction is claimed is subject to assessment, the county auditor shall allow the deduction.

- (b) This subsection does not apply to an application for a deduction under section 34.5 of this chapter. The department of environmental management, upon application by a property owner, shall determine whether a system or device qualifies for a deduction provided by section 31, 33, or 34 of this chapter. If the department determines that a system or device qualifies for a deduction, it shall certify the system or device and provide proof of the certification to the property owner. The department shall prescribe the form and manner of the certification process required by this subsection.
- (c) This subsection does not apply to an application for a deduction under section 34.5 of this chapter. If the department of environmental management receives an application for certification before May 11 of the assessment year, the department shall determine whether the system or device qualifies for a deduction before June 11 of the assessment year. If the department fails to make a determination under this subsection before June 11 of the assessment year, the system or device is considered certified.
- (d) A denial of a deduction claimed under section 31, 33, 34, or 34.5 of this chapter may be appealed as provided in IC 6-1.1-15. The appeal is limited to a review of a determination made by the township assessor, county property tax assessment board of appeals, or department of local government finance.
- (e) A person who timely files a personal property return under IC 6-1.1-3-7(a) for an assessment year and who desires to claim the deduction provided in section 31 of this chapter for property that is not assessed under IC 6-1.1-7 must file the statement described in subsection (a) between March 1 and during the twelve (12) months before June 11 inclusive, of that year. A person who obtains a filing extension under IC 6-1.1-3-7(b) for an assessment year must file the application between March 1 and the extended due date for that year.
- (f) This subsection applies only to an application for a deduction under section 34.5 of this chapter. The center for coal technology research established by IC 21-47-4-1, upon receiving an application from the owner of a building, shall determine whether the building qualifies for a deduction under section 34.5 of this chapter. If the center determines that a building qualifies for a deduction, the center shall certify the building and provide proof of the certification to the owner of the building. The center shall prescribe the form and procedure for certification of buildings under this subsection. If the center receives an application for certification of a building under section 34.5 of this chapter before May 11 of an assessment year:
 - (1) the center shall determine whether the building qualifies for a deduction before June 11 of the assessment year; and
 - (2) if the center fails to make a determination before June 11 of the assessment year, the building is considered certified.
 - SECTION 10. IC 6-1.1-20.9-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.154-2006,

SECTION 50, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 3. (a) An individual who desires to claim the credit provided by section 2 of this chapter must file a certified statement in duplicate, on forms prescribed by the department of local government finance, with the auditor of the county in which the homestead is located. The statement shall include the parcel number or key number of the real estate and the name of the city, town, or township in which the real estate is located. With respect to real property, the statement must be filed during the twelve (12) months before June 11 of the year prior to the first year for which the person wishes to obtain the credit for the homestead. With respect to a mobile home that is not assessed as real property or a manufactured home that is not assessed as real property, the statement must be filed during the twelve (12) months before March 2 31 of the first year for which the individual wishes to obtain the credit. The statement may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must be postmarked on or before the last day for filing. The statement applies for that first year and any succeeding year for which the credit is allowed.

- (b) The certified statement referred to in subsection (a) shall contain the name of any other county and township in which the individual owns or is buying real property.
- (c) If an individual who is receiving the credit provided by this chapter changes the use of the individual's real property, so that part or all of that real property no longer qualifies for the homestead credit provided by this chapter, the individual must file a certified statement with the auditor of the county, notifying the auditor of the change of use within sixty (60) days after the date of that change. An individual who changes the use of the individual's real property and fails to file the statement required by this subsection is liable for the amount of the credit the individual was allowed under this chapter for that real property.
- (d) An individual who receives the credit provided by section 2 of this chapter for property that is jointly held with another owner in a particular year and remains eligible for the credit in the following year is not required to file a statement to reapply for the credit following the removal of the joint owner if:
 - (1) the individual is the sole owner of the property following the death of the individual's spouse;
 - (2) the individual is the sole owner of the property following the death of a joint owner who was not the individual's spouse; or
 - (3) the individual is awarded sole ownership of property in a divorce decree.

SECTION 11. [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007 (RETROACTIVE)] IC 6-1.1-12-2, IC 6-1.1-12-10.1, IC 6-1.1-12-12, IC 6-1.1-12-15, IC 6-1.1-12-17, IC 6-1.1-12-17.5, IC 6-1.1-12-27.1, IC 6-1.1-12-30, IC 6-1.1-12-35.5, and IC 6-1.1-20.9-3, all as amended by this act, apply only to property taxes first due and payable after December 31, 2007.

SECTION 12. [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007 (RETROACTIVE)] (a) This SECTION applies instead of IC 6-1.1-12-35.5 before its amendment by this act. Except as

provided in IC 6-1.1-12-36, a person who desires to claim the deduction provided by IC 6-1.1-12-31, IC 6-1.1-12-33, IC 6-1.1-12-34, or IC 6-1.1-12-34.5 must file a certified statement in duplicate, on forms prescribed by the department of local government finance, and proof of certification under subsection (b) or (f) with the auditor of the county in which the property for which the deduction is claimed is subject to assessment. Except as provided in subsection (e), with respect to property that is not assessed under IC 6-1.1-7, the person must file the statement during the twelve (12) months before June 11 of the assessment year. The person must file the statement in each year for which the person desires to obtain the deduction. With respect to a property that is assessed under IC 6-1.1-7, the person must file the statement during the twelve (12) months before March 31 of each year for which the person desires to obtain the deduction. The statement may be filed in person or by mail. If mailed, the mailing must be postmarked on or before the last day for filing. On verification of the statement by the assessor of the township in which the property for which the deduction is claimed is subject to assessment, the county auditor shall allow the deduction.

- (b) This subsection does not apply to an application for a deduction under IC 6-1.1-12-34.5. The department of environmental management, upon application by a property owner, shall determine whether a system or device qualifies for a deduction provided by IC 6-1.1-12-31, IC 6-1.1-12-33, or IC 6-1.1-12-34. If the department determines that a system or device qualifies for a deduction, the department shall certify the system or device and provide proof of the certification to the property owner. The department shall prescribe the form and manner of the certification process required by this subsection.
- (c) This subsection does not apply to an application for a deduction under IC 6-1.1-12-34.5. If the department of environmental management receives an application for certification before May 11 of the assessment year, the department shall determine whether the system or device qualifies for a deduction before June 11 of the assessment year. If the department fails to make a determination under this subsection before June 11 of the assessment year, the system or device is considered certified.
- (d) A denial of a deduction claimed under IC 6-1.1-12-31, IC 6-1.1-12-33, IC 6-1.1-12-34, or IC 6-1.1-12-34.5 may be appealed as provided in IC 6-1.1-15. The appeal is limited to a review of a determination made by the township assessor, county property tax assessment board of appeals, or department of local government finance.
- (e) A person who timely files a personal property return under IC 6-1.1-3-7(a) for an assessment year and who desires to claim the deduction provided in IC 6-1.1-12-31 for property that is not assessed under IC 6-1.1-7 must file the statement described in subsection (a) during the twelve (12) months before June 11 of that year. A person who obtains a filing extension under IC 6-1.1-3-7(b) for an assessment year must file the application between March 1

and the extended due date for that year.

(f) This subsection applies only to an application for a deduction under IC 6-1.1-12-34.5. The center for coal technology research established by IC 21-47-4-1, upon receiving an application from the owner of a building, shall determine whether the building qualifies for a deduction under IC 6-1.1-12-34.5. If the center determines that a building qualifies for a deduction, the center shall certify the building and provide proof of the certification to the owner of the building. The center shall prescribe the form and procedure for certification of buildings under this subsection. If the center receives an application for certification of a building under IC 6-1.1-12-34.5 before May 11 of an assessment year:

- (1) the center shall determine whether the building qualifies for a deduction before June 11 of the assessment year; and
- (2) if the center fails to make a determination before June 11 of the assessment year, the building is considered certified.
- (g) This SECTION expires June 30, 2007.
- 18 SECTION 13. An emergency is declared for this act.

(Reference is to ESB 416 as reprinted March 16, 2007.)

Conference Committee Report on Engrossed Senate Bill 416

igned	by:

Senator Young R
Chairperson

Representative Dembowski

Senator Kenley

Representative Saunders

House Conferees